entire Presidency involves considerable labour and time. The member's attention is invited to the latest Administration Report of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board. If the information on the points raised is required in respect of any particular district or districts, it will be called for."

Speech made by Mr. Gentle.

* 3 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have perused the speech made by the retiring Chief Justice Mr. Gentle on the occasion he bade farewell to the members of the Bar on or about 15th January 1948;

(b) whether there was any interference by the Ministry in the matter of administration of justice by the High Court; and

(c) whether there was any difference between the Ministry and the Chief Justice regarding the method of recruitment to the High Court Bench?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier) :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) No."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Does not the speech imply that there has been some interference by Ministers or the Ministry in the matter of the administration of justice in the Province? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not at all true; there is no such thing as that."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Have the Government perused the recent judgment of the ex-Chief Justice and of another Judge in the matter of the appeal petition of the S.R.V.S. Company *versus* the Government wherein they have observed that Government is interfering with the statutory functions of the Central Traffic Board and the subordinate authorities which are judicial in character? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I would submit that in the judgment no such thing has been said. The whole question was about the scope and extent of the validity of rule 150 of the Motor Vehicles Rules, under which the Government have taken powers to give instructions to those authorities. It was held after an examination of the whole structure of the Act that rule 150 is not within the powers of the Legislation and an amending Act is being brought in and that is being regularized. It is merely a difference of opinion regarding the construction and the validity and scope of rule 150 which is, in fact, based on the model by-laws given to us by the Central Government."

Sri B. Bhima Rao :—" Have not the High Court laid down that rule 150 is *ultra vires*, invalid and inoperative? "

(The Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas rose.)

Mr. President :—" Is the Hon. Minister going to answer the question? I feel that this question does not arise out of the main question."

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao :—" Was there any case in which the High Court objected to Government giving directions to subordinate magistracy? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan :—" As far as we are aware this Government have not been giving any further direction to the magistracy beyond what is legally possible."

Sri B. Bhima Rao :—" The answer to clause (*c*) is in the negative; may I know why then the Chief Justice thought it fit to resign though he had elected to serve the full term of ten years? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan :—" I believe the question has to be put to the ex-Chief Justice and not to the Government."

Road-rollers owned by the Highways Department.

* 4 *Q.*—Sri P. Veerabhadraswami : Will the Hon the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of road-rollers owned by the Highways Department;

(*b*) how many of them are in working order and how many are under repairs; and

(*c*) whether the Government have placed orders for road-rollers?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" (*a*) The total number of road-rollers owned by the Highways Department is 244.

" (*b*) Two hundred road-rollers are in working order and 44 are under repairs.

" (*c*) An indent for the supply of 350 road-rollers was placed on the Director-General of Industries and Supply Department, New Delhi, of which 112 numbers have so far been received and the balance of 238 are awaited."

Sri P. R. K. Sarma :—" May I know whether road-rollers have been brought down from Australia? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" I would like to have notice of that question."

Sri P. R. K. Sarma :—" May I know whether road-rollers have been bought from foreign countries to Madras in parts and assembled in the Public Works Department Workshops? "